

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/01393

| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER | | |
|---|---|--|
| Int. Cl. ⁷ : C25C 1/00, 1/12, 7/08 | | |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC | | |
| B. FIELDS SEARCHED | | |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) | | |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched | | |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI IPC C25C 1/-, 1/00, 1/12, 7/08 and Keywords (non uniform, current density, uneven) and like terms) | | |
| C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| A | Derwent Abstract Accession No. 05837A/03, Class M28, SU 461655 A (HEAVY METALS DES BUR) 26 June 1977 abstract | 1 - 33 |
| A | Derwent Abstract Accession No. 97-242181/22, Class M28, JP 09078282 A (SUMITOMO METAL MINING CO) 25 March 1997 abstract | 1 - 33 |
| A | Derwent Abstract Accession No. 17304Y/10, Class M28, JP 52010823 A (DOWA MINING CO LTD) 27 January 1977 Abstract | 1 - 24, 30, 31 |
| X | | 25, 32 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex | | |
| <p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> | | |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 November 2003 | | Date of mailing of the international search report 18 NOV 2003 |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929 | | Authorized officer E.J. MARTYN Telephone No : (02) 6283 2332 |

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| C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X | AU 199717867 B (712612) (COPPER REFINERIES PTY LTD) 23 October 1997 Claims 1 - 13 and fig. 1 - 8 | 26 - 29, 33 |
| X | EP 1022360 A (RUHR-ZINK GMBH) 26 July 2000 whole document | 26 - 29, 33 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU03/01393

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent Document Cited in Search Report | | Patent Family Member | |
|---|----------|----------------------|----------|
| SU | 461655 | | |
| JP | 9078282 | | |
| JP | 5210823 | | |
| AU | 17867/97 | ZA | 9703197 |
| EP | 1022360 | DE | 19902663 |
| END OF ANNEX | | | |